

[11th December 1923]

Water-supply to the Coimbatore town.

18 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what stage has been reached by the scheme for giving a water-supply to Coimbatore town; and

(b) whether the matter has been considered by the Government after the hon. the Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department visited Coimbatore and gave some hope at a public meeting of the scheme being given effect to very soon; and, if so, whether any decision has been arrived at; and if no decision has been yet arrived at, whether there is any chance of such a decision being arrived at in the near future?

A.—A scheme for the supply of water to Coimbatore from the Siruvani river was submitted by the Sanitary Engineer in December 1919. According to the latest estimates, the scheme is likely to cost Rs. 44.2 lakhs, including centage charges at 30 per cent of the cost of the works. The Government usually pay half the cost of major water-supply schemes and lend the other half to the Council concerned. In this case, the Council has therefore to borrow Rs. 22.1 lakhs, but it is not prepared to levy the water-tax at more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the rental value of property, which will enable it to borrow only about Rs. 14 lakhs. The question of reducing the centage charges for the execution of water-supply schemes is now under the consideration of the Government and as soon as a decision is arrived at, the Government will pass final orders on the Coimbatore scheme. In the list of schemes approved by the Government for execution, Coimbatore occupies the first place in the order of priority.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—“Will the hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to inform me of the approximate sum spent for experimental purposes in connexion with the introduction of water-supply for Coimbatore town from Siruvani up to this date?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I have no information, Sir.”

Water-supply of Coonoor.

19 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the question of improving the water-supply of Coonoor is at present;

(b) whether the Municipality of Coonoor has submitted plans and estimates regarding this matter;

(c) if an application has been made for financial help and whether the Government have any intention of rendering any such help; and

(d) if so, when and to what extent?

A.—(a) & (b) The Sanitary Engineer prepared in August last a scheme of improvements known as the ‘Karadipallam Scheme’ which has been accepted by the Council. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, has however, after an inspection of the

11th December 1923]

place on the 29th and 30th October last in company with the Sanitary Engineer and some municipal councillors, proposed a revised scheme. This has been referred to the Municipal Council for acceptance. The Sanitary Engineer is also being asked to submit estimates for the revised scheme.

- (c) & (d) In December 1920, the Council applied for a grant of Rs. 22,691 equivalent to half the *increased* cost of the revised estimates for the scheme as it then stood and for a loan of a like amount with interest at 4 per cent per annum. The question of finance will have to be considered afresh when a decision has been arrived at on the scheme to be adopted. Ordinarily the Government bear one half of the cost of water-supply and drainage schemes and advance the other half as a loan, if the local body requires it.

RAILWAYS.

Scheme regarding Railway line between Singanallur and Podanur.

20 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state if any scheme to divert the Railway line between Singanallur and Podanur so as to make it run *via* Coimbatore is in consideration; and if so, if there is any likelihood of the scheme being taken up at an early date?

A.—Yes. The matter is under correspondence with the Railway Board.

REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT.

Removal of the Revenue Divisional office, Gobichettipalayam.

21 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the proposal to remove the Revenue Divisional office from Gobichettipalayam is still under consideration and, if so, in what stage or whether it has been dropped?

A.—The proposal is under the consideration of Government and has not been dropped.

VILLAGE ESTABLISHMENT.

Pay of village officers.

22 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) if there were village officers getting a salary of Rs. 15 a month before the introduction of the scheme to give village officers a minimum salary of Rs. 15 per mensem;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the number of such officers and the reason that enabled them to receive a higher pay;

(c) whether the introduction of the new scheme of enhanced pay referred to in (a) has benefited in any way those village officers who were receiving not less than Rs. 15 per mensem; and

(d) if they have derived no benefit, whether the Government have any intention of taking their case into consideration and giving them any increase whatever?